

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6434

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUNC SEOUL KOREA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1284

E.B.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA, UN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S DISCUSSION OF KOREAN AFFAIRS WITH
UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SEOUL 0583

1. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S COURTESY CALL ON UN BUREAU
DIRGEN OKAWA JAN 27 PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR WIDE-
RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON KOREAN AFFAIRS, WHICH OKAWA
PURSUED FOR OVER HOUR AND HALF. OKAWA EXPRESSED WARM
APPRECIATION FOR ARRANGEMENTS MADE ON SHORT NOTICE FOR
HIS VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA LAST WEEK (REFTEL). HE WAS
PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE OBVIOUS TENSIONS REVEALED BY
HIS BRIEF VISIT TO PANMUNJOM; HE SAID HE LEARNED MORE
ABOUT THE KOREAN PROBLEM FROM THE HALF-HOUR WITNESSING
MAC MEETING THERE THAN COULD BE CONVEYED BY ANY NUMBER
OF WRITTEN REPORTS. HE REITERATED TOO FEW JAPANESE
HAVE ANY APPRECIATION FOR REALITIES OF KOREAN SCENE.
REST OF DISCUSSION RANGED OVER MANY OF SAME SUBJECTS
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COVERED REFTEL.

2. OWAKA MADE FOUR SPECIFIC POINTS, HOWEVER, THAT MAY BE WORTH REPORTING:

A. HE OBSERVED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE PRC PERSONNEL SITING IN MAC MEETING AT PANMUNJOM. UNTIL THEN, HE HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CHINESE HAD LONG SINCE STOPPED PARTICIPATION IN ARMISTICE MACHINERY, POSSIBLY SINCE PRC TROOP WITHDRAWALS IN 1950'S. THIS IMPRESSION WAS STRENGTHENED BY NUMBER OF STATEMENTS BY PRC, INCLUDING THAT MADE TO OKAWA BY PRC CHARGE IN TOKYO LAST FALL, THAT PRC NO LONGER PARTY TO ARMISTICE IN KOREA. HE SAID HE IS STLLL UNABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS PREVIOUS MIS-APPREHENSION.

B. OKAWA SAID GOJ WAS ANXIOUS TO MOVE ALLIED CON-SULTATIONS ON KOREAN PROBLEM IN UN EARLIER THIS YEAR THAN LAST. THE JAPANESE AGREED THAT CORE GROUP MEETING AT EARLY DATE IS DESIRABLE AND WERE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW SOON U.S. AND ROK GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD MEETING. HE FELT CORE GROUP MEETING SHOULD BE HELD BEFORE ASEAN SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE CHANCES OF INFLUENCE ON ASEAN ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS.

C. CONCERNING ALLIED APPROACHES TO NONALIGNED THIS YEAR, HE FELT STRONGLY WE MUST MOVE WELL BEFORE COLOMBO MEETING TO HAVE EFFECTIVE IMPACT ON THEIR POSITIONS.

D. OTSUKA SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED CANADIAN INITIATIVE WITH AIDE MEMOIRE WAS AT THE VERY LEAST PREMATURE, AND HE FOUND VERBIAGE ABOUT "DE-AMERICANIZATION", FOR EXAMPLE, SOMEWHAT ALARMING, CANADIAN CLARIFICATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING.

E. RUMINATING IN GENERAL ON OUR LONGER RANGE APPROACH TO KOREAN PROBLEM, HE SAID HE FEELS WE MIGHT CONSIDER SWITCHING EMPHASIS IN OUR RHETORIC FROM UNIFICATION, WHICH OBVIOUSLY IS UNATTAINABLE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, TO MORE REALISTIC GOAL OF STABLE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. HE OFFERED THIS THOUGHT EVEN IN FULL RECOGNITION OF THE

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IRRATIONAL RESISTANCE OF THIRD WORLD TO ANY HINT OF SHIFT AWAY FROM UNIFICATION OBJECTIVE. OTSUKA ALSO SAID THE MINISTRY IS ALSO MOVING AWAY FROM NOTION OF DISESTABLISHMENT OF UNC. THEY NOW FEEL SUCH A TACTIC WOULD NOT KEEP KOREAN ISSUE OUT OF UN, SINCE NORTH KOREANS AND THEIR ALLIES WOULD SIMPLY MOVE ON TO ATTACK AGAINST U.S. PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA.
HODGSON

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